1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Victoria Gardens Library in Rancho Cucamonga is part of a multi-purpose project called the "Center of Imagination", which also features a Children's Theater and Event Center. It is the culmination of the dreams, vision and hard work of hundreds of professionals and community members. From the original Project Team Members of Library staff and Board, to the eventual Design Team which evolved into 30 design professionals ranging from Disney Imagineers to acoustical engineers, a quality and professional multi-purpose project that responds to the needs of the community has been the goal.

Today, the 22,500 square foot single outlet of Rancho Cucamonga Library contains 127,000 items. With a population of 127,000 people, 33,000 of them youngsters between the ages of 5 and 19, the Library suffers from overuse and overcrowding, with visitors numbering over 1,200 each day. For the future, with 5 news schools on the planning board by 2005, the need for additional library resources will reach critical proportions. Without the building of a second outlet, support to our children will drop to less than one book available per child.

For that reason, the proposal to build the Victoria Gardens Library has its roots solidly in the community, as a three year city wide planning process attests. Developing this project has involved thousands of community members. From the over 700 survey takers, the 100 plus focus group participants and school committee members, the hundreds of participants in community presentations and the thousands of residents who viewed the Library Telethon, the Project Planning Committee has received enthusiasm, thoughtful critique and creative direction.

In terms of the multi-use aspect of the project, the ultimate goal of the project planners was to create a design that answered not the question of "why put a theater and library together", but rather generated the question "Why would you ever consider NOT putting the Children's Theater and Library together?" Planning for the unique blend of a library with a Children's Theater has been an exciting and energizing concept. In working with school districts, community groups, home schooling parents, storytime visitors and the education community—all have expressed excitement and enthusiasm about the educational opportunities for youth through the blending of curriculum with live theater and resource support from the library.

One of the most exciting aspects of this project and the process that created it was the opportunity to create new and vital partnerships for the Library. The work in pulling together the Joint Venture project with the four school districts of Rancho Cucamonga, the creation of a vital team of library and cultural arts staff to bring synergy to the Children's Theater and Library partnership, these features of the project made this an exciting year.

The Victoria Gardens Library Exists to Bring Imagination, Ideas, and People Together.

In working through the needs assessment, we found the people of Rancho Cucamonga are a joy to work with. Creative, enthusiastic, endlessly willing to pitch in and help, this community of volunteers shape their own future with hard work and dedicated energy. This energy was evident in people like Library Foundation member Rebecca Davies, who teamed with Library Board members to present over 15 community presentations to Rancho Cucamonga educators, service club members and special interest groups. Or Mayor Pro Tem Diane Williams, organizing the support of the Chamber of Commerce. Or the Assistant San Bernardino County Sheriff, who spent valuable evenings working with the Community Task Force, building their recommendations for Information Technology and the future.

During the three years of assessments, feasibility studies, deliberations and site examinations, Rancho Cucamonga Public Library used the goals from the _Library Master Plan 2000_ to expand services to the public through outreach and technology offering an outstanding array of innovative programs, including a "Kidsmobile" to service schools, a Housecalls program for the homebound, and a website featuring 12 online databases.

The Victoria Gardens Library concept began with a building program designed using the California State Library produced "Libris Design" product. Adaptable, yet effective, the Libris software proved invaluable to the team in early concept planning. With the approval of the concept of the "Center of Imagination" in 2001, the architectural project team of Larry Wolff and Peter Pitassi were brought on board, joined by Building Program Consultant Linda Demmers. After an exciting three day Design Charette, the building began to take shape, the Libris Design program was fined tuned and the project was on its way!

The thought that the Library is the place where dreams are born and the theater is the place where dreams come to life has fired the enthusiasm for this innovative project. Shared lobby space and public restrooms, shared community room space in the event center for library programs as varied as the annual Summer Reading Faire to a staff in-service conference with teleconferencing needs, shared expenses in the areas of maintenance and technology support, shared programming support between library, community services and four elementary school districts—this project promises to unite a community more than ever before.

The vision of moving from a 10,000 square foot branch library of San Bernardino County Library in 1994 to a Library System of two library locations and almost 50,000 square feet of service space by 2004 represents a dream come true. Offering at last the 2 books per resident outlined in the Ray Holt Master Plan in 1991, the Victoria Gardens Library project promises so much more than "just" more books and more space for a library hungry community. It promises, as the Mission Statement outlines, a place "to bring imagination, ideas and people together."

The Victoria Gardens Library Exists to Bring Imagination, Ideas, and People Together.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The staff of the Rancho Cucamonga Public Library would like to sincerely acknowledge the following for their support and assistance in gathering information, presenting the Victoria Gardens vision to the public and helping to contribute to this grant application:

Linda Demmers, Library Consultant
Kevin McArdle, City of Rancho Cucamonga Community Services Director
Linda Daniels, City of Rancho Cucamonga Redevelopment Agency Director
Rebecca Davies, Library Foundation Board
Peter Pitassi, AIA, Pitassi Architects
Larry Wolff, AIA, WLC Architects
Brad Buller, City of Rancho Cucamonga, City Planner
Brent LeCount, City of Rancho Cucamonga, Associate Planner
Nancy Fong, City of Rancho Cucamonga, Senior Planner
Michael Crose, CM Technology
Richard B. Hall, Library Bond Act Manager, California State Library Office of Library Construction
William J. Alexander, Mayor, City of Rancho Cucamonga
Diane Williams, Mayor Pro Tem, City of Rancho Cucamonga
Paul Biane, Councilmember, City of Rancho Cucamonga
Grace Curatalo, Councilmember, City of Rancho Cucamonga
Bob Dutton, Councilmember, City of Rancho Cucamonga
Robert Howdyshell, President, Library Board of Trustees
Ravenel Wimberly, Vice-President, Library Board of Trustees
Donna Bradshaw, Boardmember, Library Board of Trustees
Dobbin Lo, Boardmember, Library Board of Trustees
Joyce Womack, Boardmember, Library Board of Trustees

In addition, there are too many to thank individually, but we would also be remiss if we did not acknowledge the hundreds who were part of focus groups, attended public presentations, and either filled in or responded to library surveys. Without all of this valuable feedback, we could not have compiled this application for the Victoria Gardens Library.

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3. OVERVIEW AND INTRODUCTION

3.1 OVERVIEW AND INTRODUCTION

Residents of the City of Rancho Cucamonga received their library services through the San Bernardino County Library until 1994. Services were provided from a branch library of 10,000 square feet and a collection of 50,000 items. Hungry for better library services for it residents, the City of Rancho Cucamonga made plans to withdraw from the San Bernardino County Library System to create it's own city library—the first library in California to pull away from the County library system to improve library services to it's residents. To negotiate that first withdrawal from a county system cost the city of Rancho Cucamonga $500,000 in payments over a 10 year period in the form of a withdrawal "penalty", an investment they were willing to make to improve library services to the residents of their community.

An extensive needs assessment process was undertaken in 1990 when Raymond Holt & Associates was contracted to produce a Master Plan for the Rancho Cucamonga Public Library. Starting with the recommended withdrawal form the San Bernardino County Library system, the recommendations of the implementation document drove the service plan that operated the Archibald Library which opened in 1994. Although the city had more than doubled the building size from the San Bernardino County Branch Library and tripled the collection, they knew it wasn't enough to serve a city that had nearly doubled in population from 1980 to 1990. Therefore, the City Council named the Archibald location an "Interim Library" and created a Library Board of Trustees to oversee the facility and plan for it's future growth.

Today, the 22,500 square foot Archibald Library contains 127,000 items. Community support is high, with 115,000 current borrowers reflecting 87% of the population. Open 7 days a week, the Library sees an average of 1,500 visitors each day. Designed to age gracefully and meticulously maintained by city crews, the Archibald Library is no longer referred to as "Interim", but serves as a "destination point" for the community and is a much loved community fixture.

However, built to comfortably hold 70,000 volumes, the current collection of 127,000 has outgrown the single location. During occasional slow periods of library use, triggered by varying school schedules, otherwise valuable materials pile up on the floor, cover the windows and stuff the shelves.

Closets and storage areas have been converted to office space and computer centers as the library service program has expanded; shelving has extended up and over windowed areas and tables and chairs removed and replaced with stacks to accommodate growing need.

Since 1997, City Executive Staff and Library Management have investigated a variety of options for expansion. Library Programs have been written for four separate potential locations: A historical train depot, which proved too small at 8,000 square feet and too expensive to rehabilitate. A second building program was written for a joint use venture with Community Services in an abandoned Kmart building, but the site was rejected due to its close proximity to the current outlet. A third historic location located in west Cucamonga failed, again due to the high cost of rehabilitation. While eastern Rancho Cucamonga was the most appealing location, due to demographics and the high rate of population growth, its rural atmosphere created no opportunities for a storefront or vacant retail outlet to begin service. A fourth and final failed attempt to local a library in an existing building in eastern Rancho Cucamonga was abandoned

when the site, a historic winery, was determined by residents to be better suited for purposes other than a destination point for children.

During the three years of these deliberations and site examinations, the Library used the goals from the Library Master Plan 2000 to expand services through outreach and technology. Therefore, despite collection and space limitations, the Rancho Cucamonga Public Library offers an outstanding array of innovative programs, including a Kidsmobile to service schools, a Housecalls program for the homebound, and a website featuring 12 online databases. Summer of 2002 will introduce the online "24/7" reference service. However, it was the first official community needs analysis undertaken as part of the General Plan update of 2000 that was to provide the library with the ammunition it needed to really bring the expansion issues to the forefront of city interest—a needs assessment which clearly showed that the current single location of 22,500 square feet containing 127,000 volumes, while extremely popular, is inadequate to meet the space or collection needs required for a population of 127,000.

The project, called General Plan 2000, was a massive city-wide assessment of community and facility needs. Library, Community Services, Fire and Police were all equally involved in assessing their serve areas and recommending changes to include in General Plan 2000. Thirtieth Street Architects, Inc. was selected to prepare a Library Master Plan and a Research Network, Ltd., was contracted to design and implement a community survey to assess library and recreational use patters and needs for the future. As part of the process, Consultant John Loomis completed a Community Needs Assessment based on demographics, interviews and survey results, proposed language for the General Plan and developed as an Implementation Plan a series of goals to help the library achieve growth. These three products were the result of community input; work with the library staff, the Library Board and the City Council and a planning session with two nationally recognized library consultants, Linda Demmers and Gordon Conable, along with the Director of Planning, the Library Director and key library staff members. The Library Board maintained continued involvement in the process as all documents were reviewed, amended and approved by the Library Board at regularly scheduled meetings.

The Library Master Plan outlined a future service option containing three equal size "branch" libraries, geographically situated in the community to provide convenient access for all residents and greater resources for the community overall. The Library Master Plan recommended the second library outlet be located in the eastern portion of the community, which was then experiencing the greatest growth in population. At a public joint meeting of the Rancho Cucamonga City Council and the Library Board of Trustees, the proposed Master Plan was presented, reviewed and analyzed—and formally approved before an audience of Friends of the Library, Foundation Members and interested members of the public. During that meeting, the Mayor also announced the plans for a major commercial venture in eastern Rancho Cucamonga, encompassing 440 acres--a mixed use development that would bring a new "downtown" feeling to a retail outdoor mall, surrounded by over 6,00 newly constructed housing units. Library staff hoped that at last, an appropriate location could be found for a library in eastern Rancho Cucamonga.

Following on the heels of the Library Master Plan was the Park Facility Master Plan. Survey analysis showed the public's greatest area of unfulfilled interest was in the area of performing arts. In response to the survey, a Performing Arts Feasibility Study was authorized. AMS, a nationally recognized theater consultant group was hired. After four months of research, the consultant group recommended a Children's Theater as the best performing arts venue for the City. Coupled with the need for a Library and a new community center in east of Rancho Cucamonga and a regional center in prime location about to undergo development, the concept of Library and Performing Arts Cultural Center or "The Center for Imagination" was born: A Children's Theater, a Library and an Events Center together in one location.

With the approval of the City Council, Library Board and Parks & Recreation Commission, AMS proceeded to the second phase: The Library and Performing Arts Feasibility Study, involving developing a program, determining a site and working to create synergy between the Library, Children's Theater and Event Center. During this space needs analysis phase of the library project, the library project team, trained in the State Library created software called "Libris Design", created and reviewed programs for libraries in three sizes (Small at 10,000 square feet, Medium at 22,500 and Larger at 25,000). Working with AMS Theater consultants, now including Library architect Sherrill Myers, and Community Services and Cultural Arts staff, the Project Team spent three months on programming the facility, finally reaching agreement on size and inter-relationships. The Victoria Gardens development was selected as the prime site, based on accessibility, high development standards and location in the eastern portion of Rancho Cucamonga. The Library Board reviewed staff's proposal for the 22,500 square foot facility, to be collocated with the Children's Theater and the Event Center, allowing access to a community room/multipurpose area that would seat up to 300 attendees. Stating their belief that the project would allow for new partnerships with schools, create an exciting and culturally rich destination point and respond to nearly all the needs raised in the community analysis of 2000, the Board endorsed the Project Team's work. This decision was based on what the community needed and on what the Library Director and City Manager felt it could reasonably afford to maintain given the tumultuous California economy. The concept program was reviewed by City Council in 2001, and approved.

In response to a Request for Proposal process and interview, the architectural project team of Larry Wolff and Peter Pitassi were contracted to design the building and Linda Demmers, Library Consultant, was engaged by the City to refine the staff-produced Libris building program, and to work with the Project Team through conceptual design.

During a two day Programming and three day Design Charette, the building began to take shape as Architects, Designers, Landscapers, Librarians, Performing Arts specialists, Acoustic Engineers and even Disney Imagineers—worked together to create a vision called "The Imagination Center".

Planning for the unique blend of a library with a Children's Theater has been an exciting and energizing concept. In working with school districts, community groups, home schooling parents, storytime visitors and the education community—all have expressed excitement and enthusiasm about the educational opportunities for youth and the blending of curriculum with live theater and resource support from the Library.

The thought that the Library is the place where dreams are born and the theater is the place where dreams come to life has fired the enthusiasm for this new project. Shared lobby space and public restrooms, shared community room space in the event center for library programs as varied as the annual Summer Reading Faire to a staff in-service conference with teleconferencing needs, shared expenses in the areas of maintenance and technology support, shared programming support between library, community services and four elementary school districts—this project promises to unite a community more than ever before.

The library project planning team, which was formed in 1997 under the guidance of Library Director Deborah Clark, demonstrates great continuity, with all five members still involved in their original roles. The Library Planning Consultant, Linda Demmers, also participated in the Library Master Plan process in 1999 and was then engaged by the City to complete the building program and conceptual phases. The Library Board has been involved and supportive in the process, reviewing each proposal and evaluating their options. The Library Foundation has undertaken a major fundraising campaign for Children's Books for the potential branch and has conducted informational meetings through the community.

Based on the expectation that the library will follow a schedule that moves forward at a reasonable pace, design development can be completed by the fall of 2002, and Construction Documents completed by the summer of 2003. This would suggest an opening of spring of 2005 allowing approximately 14 months for construction.

4. COMMUNITY ANALYSIS

4.6 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: COMMUNITY ANALYSIS

Rancho Cucamonga is located in the Inland Empire of California, one of the nation's fastest growing areas. It is located 37 miles east of downtown Los Angeles and is convenient to the Ontario airport. The city occupies 36.5 square miles. A heritage of vineyards, ranchos, orchards, and wineries are reflected in historic buildings that complement the newer, suburban developments. Homes are well maintained, with the median selling price at $182,200[1] in 1999. Over 75% of the houses are single-family units and 70% of all housing is owner occupied. Currently noted as one of the ten safest cities in the state and among the top 25 cities with population over 100,000 nationwide, Rancho Cucamonga is a highly desirable city for families.

The population of the City has grown by 26% since the 1990 Census, surpassing the growth rate of the rest of San Bernardino County, the State of California and the rest of the United States. The number of new housing starts in Rancho Cucamonga is in the top 10% of Los Angeles metropolitan suburbs.[2] The number of new housing starts and residential development indicates that the community will continue to grow at a fairly rapid pace.

The population is less ethnically diverse than other areas of the County or the rest of the State, but the number of Hispanic residents has been increasing steadily during the past ten years.

In 2000, the median age of the population was 32.2 years of age, slightly older than the rest of San Bernardino County, but younger than California and the rest of the United States. The percentage of the population under the age of 4 is less than California and the United States. The percentage of the population representing children 5 to 9 is less than for the rest of the County, but substantially higher than the rest of California and the United States. The 10 to 14 and 14 to 19 age groups represents a significantly higher percentage of the population than for California and the United States, but less than the county. The youth population of Rancho Cucamonga, those 18 years and under represents nearly 30% of the total population.

The number of children between the ages of 5 and 19 has risen from 22,000 in 1990 to 33,000 reported in Census 2000. Four school districts serve the elementary school age children, and the high school students are served by one district. These five districts operate over 45 separate schools. In addition, two new schools are opening in the fall of 2002 with three more currently in planning or under construction.

The results of standardized test scores vary school-to-school and district-to-district, with several schools scoring a higher state ranking of 8 or 9, and others as low as 1 or 2. Although each school in each district has a school library, there are only 8.3 full time equivalent librarians to serve these 33,479 public school children who have access to approximately 440,000 volumes in their school libraries. These school children have access to 411 computer workstations in their library media centers.

The median family income, at over $66,466 per year, is substantially higher than California and San Bernardino County. The per capita income and the median family income of Rancho Cucamonga

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[1] Census 2000.

[2] The comparative guide to American suburbs: L.A. Metropolitan Area. Toucan Valley Publications, c1997.

residents are similar to the rest of the United States. The percentage of the population living in poverty is 7.1%.[3] While this is less than one-half of the percentage of San Bernardino County residents living below the poverty level (15.8%) and one-half of California residents (14.2%), it is a substantial increase from the 1990 census, which reported 5.4% of the population living below the poverty level. Several of the school districts report that 30% or more of the students enrolled are socio-economically disadvantaged.

Residents are primarily employed in manufacturing (13%); retail trade (13.2%); and education, health, and social services (20.9%). There are a low percentage of self-employed workers at 7%, and a high percentage of government workers at 17.1%. The average length of commute for city residents is 32 minutes. Unemployment is low at 3.7% of the population over the age of 16, which is less than national unemployment at 5.4%, San Bernardino County at 4.9% and California at 4.3%. Nearly 24% of residents report holding a Bachelor's degree, a rate that is similar to the rest of the United States. Residents are well connected with over 85% of Rancho Cucamonga households having computers with Internet access.

The City is a general plan city with a City Manager and City Council form of government. Many of the City Departments work closely and collaboratively, including Community Services, Planning Department and the Library, which are all actively engaged in the planning for the Victoria Gardens Library and Community and Cultural Performing Center.

The Library is supported by an active and highly effective Friends of the Library group, who operate a profitable Friends of the Library Bookstore. The Library is also supported by a Library Foundation for major fundraising activities, and by a bi-annual telethon, which benefits from the contributions of hundreds of local businesses, organizations, citizens, school children, elected officials, media personalities, and other community agencies.

The demographic profile of the City is one of a community of families, actively engaged in community activities. The recent changes in the population indicate an increase in the number of Hispanic residents and a higher percentage of the population living below the poverty level. The schools are struggling to keep ahead of the requirements of a growing student enrollment by building new facilities, and to keep ahead of the changing requirements of a population that has weaker English Language skills. The City provides excellent community services, parks, senior citizen support, and actively polls the requirements of its community on a regular basis.

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[3] Census 2000.

4.7 COMMUNITY ANALYSIS

THE CITY

Rancho Cucamonga is located in the Inland Empire of California, one of the nation's fastest growing areas. It is located 37 miles east of downtown Los Angeles and is convenient to the Ontario airport. The city occupies 36.5 square miles. The climate is moderate and typical of Southern California.

Crowned by the beautiful San Gabriel Mountains, Rancho Cucamonga boasts planned communities and award winning architecture in addition to a quality, family lifestyle. A heritage of vineyards, ranchos, orchards, and wineries are reflected in historic buildings that complement the newer, suburban development. Homes are well maintained, with the median selling price at $182,200[4] in 1999. Over 75% of the houses are single-family units and 70 % of all housing is owner occupied. Sixty-one percent of the houses are less than 20 years old. There are many neighborhood parks including a world-class minor league baseball stadium.

Currently noted as one of the ten safest cities in the state and among the top 25 cities with population over 100,000 nationwide, Rancho Cucamonga is a highly desirable city for families. In a 1997 study of Los Angeles Area metropolitan suburbs, Rancho Cucamonga was rated 26th lowest of 155 suburbs in violent crime incidents and the 65th lowest in property crimes[5]. Crime has dropped an average of 5% per year over the past five years, and the Police Department supports several very successful crime reduction programs including Neighborhood Watch and child safety programs covering bicycle safety, personal safety, and fingerprinting.

VICTORIA GARDENS

Rancho Cucamonga is currently developing a master plan for a new downtown, which will be called "Victoria Gardens." This mixed-use center, sited in the Victoria Arbors community, within a region known as the Victoria Community of villages, is being planned as a combination of the best of the Main Street tradition of the western American town combined with the commercial demands of the twenty-first century. It will create a business and cultural heart for the area with its retail, office, hotel, residential, civic and cultural uses. The vitality of the center will be generated by retail and department stores and small specialty stores. The setting is envisioned as a grid of walking streets with lush, landscaped sidewalks. A town square, plazas, paseos, and small parks will be sprinkled throughout the downtown area. Critical to the components of this downtown are a public library that will embrace a civic plaza along with a community meeting complex and a children's theatre. These elements, along with the new retail, will form a downtown Main Street area for the residential neighborhoods surrounding it. It is envisioned as a place for people to spend time, for children and families; a place with colorful plants, shops and graphics; a place with a town square, pedestrian paseos, shaded courtyards, outdoor dining, and fountains.

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4 Census 2000.
5 The comparative guide to American suburbs: L.A. Metropolitan Area. Toucan Valley Publications, c1997.

Table 4.1: Demographic Profile

Population	Rancho Cucamonga	San Bernardino	United States	California
2000 Census	127,743	1,709,434	281,421,906	33,871,645
1990 Census	101,409	1,418,380	249,045,935	29,760,021
Annual Change 1990-2000	2.6%	2%	1.3%	1.3%
Growth 1990 to 2000	26%	20%	13%	13.8%

Race and Origin 2000	Rancho Cucamonga	San Bernardino	California	United States
White	71%	63.1%	63.4%	77.1%
Black	8.9%	10%	7.4%	12.9%
Native American	1.6%	2.2%	1.9%	1.5%
Asian/Pacific Islander	7.9%	6.2%	13%	4.5%
Other races	16.3%	23.8%	19.4%	6.6%
Hispanic origin	27.8%	39.2%	32.4%	12.5%

Households and Income 2000	Rancho Cucamonga	San Bernardino	California	United States
Median family income	$66,446	$46,574	$53,025	$63,250
Per capita income	$23,702	$16,856	$22,711	$21,690
% Population below poverty level	7.1%	15.8%	14.2%	12.5%
Average size of family	3.44	3.58	3.43	3.14
Average size of household	3.04	3.15	2.87	2.59

Age Distribution 2000	Rancho Cucamonga	San Bernardino	California	United States
0 –4 years	7%	8.4%	7.3%	6.8%
5 to 9 years	8.6%	9.6%	8.0%	7.3%
10 to 14 years	9.1%	9.3%	7.6%	7.3%
15 to 19 years	8.3%	8.3%	7.2%	7.2%
20 to 24 years	6.7%	7.1%	7.0%	6.7%
25 to 44 years	33.2%	30.1%	31.6%	30.2%
45 to 64 years	21%	18.7%	20.5%	22%
65 to 84 years	5.5%	7.7%	10.4%	10.9%
85+	.5%	.9%	1.3%	1.5%
Over 65	6.1%	8.6%	10.6%	12.4%
Over 18	70.1%	67.7%	72.7%	74.3%
Median Age 1990	29.5	29.3	32.9	31.5
Median Age 2000	32.2	30.3	35.3	33.3

Educational attainment

	Rancho Cucamonga	San Bernardino	California	United States
Less than 9th grade[6]	4.4%	10.4%	11.5%	6.9%
High School graduates	86%	74.2%	76.8%	81.6%
Bachelor's degrees	23.3%	15.9%	26.6%	25.1%
Adults at Literacy Level 1 & 2[7]	31%		46%	
Adults at Literacy Level 1	13%		24%	

4.8 DEMOGRAPHICS 2000

GROWTH

The population of Rancho Cucamonga is recorded at 127,743[8] by Census 2000, an increase of 26% in the ten years since the 1990 census. During that time, the rest of San Bernardino County grew by 20% or approximately 2% per year and the State of California grew by only 1.3% per year. The number of housing units increased from 41,193 in 1999 to 42,065 in 2000[9], or an increase of over 2% per year. The number of new housing starts in Rancho Cucamonga is in the top 10% of Los Angeles metropolitan suburbs.[10] The number of new housing starts and residential development indicates that the community will continue to grow at a fairly rapid pace. The California Department of Finance records the population growth at 3.6% for the year from 2000 to 2001 and 2.8% for the year 1999-2000[11]. This is the second highest for San Bernardino County and in the top 13% of cities in the State (ranked 66 of 476 for the 2000 to 2001 year.)

AGE

In 2000, the median age of the population of Rancho Cucamonga was 32.2 years of age, slightly older than the rest of San Bernardino County and younger than California and the rest of the United States. The percentage of the population under the age of 4 is less than California and the United States. The percentage of the population representing children 5 to 9 is less than for the rest of the County, but higher than the rest of California and the United States. The 10 to 14 and 14 to 19 age groups represents a significantly higher percentage of the population than for California and the United States, but less

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6 Census 2000

7 CASAS (c1996) Adult Literacy Estimates for population age 16+. Portland State University. www.casas.org.

8 Census 2000.

9 California Depart ment of Finance. Demographic Unit.

10 The comparative guide to American suburbs: L.A. Metropolitan Area. Toucan Valley Publications, c1997.

11 California Department of Finance. Demographic Unit. Table E-1.

than the county. The youth population of Rancho Cucamonga, those 18 years and under, represents nearly 30% of the total population.

The school age population has grown relatively rapidly, reflecting the rise in birth rates in the late 1980's and through the early to the mid-1990's. The total population five years of age and older (up to 19 years of age) is 33,213, an increase of 50% from 1990, when it was 22,648. Recently birth rates have moderated, which has resulted in a decline in the number of preschool age children from 9,423 in 1990 to 8,942 in 2000.

In the 1990 Census, the population was largely of Caucasian descent (78%) with a lower percentage of Hispanic residents (20%) than the rest of San Bernardino County (26%) and California (25.8%). In 2000, residents of Asian and Pacific Islander descent represented nearly 8% of the population, nearly twice the average for the United States, but less than for California. Nearly 14% of Rancho Cucamonga residents reported that they are foreign born and 25% of the population reported speaking a language other than English at home.

INCOME AND EMPLOYMENT

The median family income, at over $66,466 per year, is slightly higher than the rest of the United States and substantially higher than California and San Bernardino County. The percentage of the population living in poverty is 7.1%, a substantial increase from the 1990 census, whic h reported 5.4% of the population living below the poverty level.[12] This is less than one-half of the percentage of San Bernardino County residents living below the poverty level (15.8%) and one-half of California residents (14.2%).

Residents are primarily employed in manufacturing (13%); retail trade (13.2%); and education, health, and social services (20.9%). There are a low percentage of self-employed workers at 7%, and a high percentage of government workers at 17.1%. The average length of commute for city residents is 32 minutes. Unemployment is low at 3.7% of the population over the age of 16, which is less than national unemployment at 5.4%, San Bernardino County at 4.9% and California at 4.3%. Residents are well-connected with over 85% of Rancho Cucamonga households having computers with Internet access.

LITERACY AND LANGUAGE

Illiteracy is not a significant demographic factor in the city. The synthetic adult literacy estimate for the City of Rancho Cucamonga puts the percentage of the population at Level 1 literacy at 13%. This is significantly lower than in the general population of the United States, which has been estimated to be 21 to 23% at Level 1. These are low numbers compared to the County and the State. Level 1 is the lowest literacy level, signifying an adult who can perform many tasks involving simple texts and documents, but displays some difficulty using certain reading, writing, and computational skills considered necessary for functioning in everyday life. For example, adults at Level 1 can usually sign their name but usually cannot locate eligibility information in a table of employee benefits. Adults at

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[12] Census 2000.

Level 1 literacy typically earn less than half of the general public, are more likely to be on welfare, and work an average of 19 weeks per year vs. 44 weeks per year for the general population.

In Census 2000 25% of the population reported speaking a language other than English at home, and only 8.7% report speaking English "less than well. A total of 4.4% of the population (or 3,409 residents) have completed less than the 9th grade and an additional 9.6% or 7,414 residents have completed some high school, but do not have a high school diploma.

With 23.3% of the City's population over the age of 25 holding at least a Bachelor's degree, the level of educational achievement is 50% higher than the rest of San Bernardino County and roughly equivalent to the general population of the United States.

4.9 DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS

	1990	2000
Population	101,409	127,743
Age: Median age	29.5	32.2
Age: Over 65	5%	6.1%
Age: Under Age 5	9%	7%
Age: 5 to 19	22%	26%
Average family size	3.41	3.44
Average household size	3.01	3.04
Family households	26,160	31,827
Households	33,635	42,000
Chaffey Union Enrollment	17,296	19,339
Ethnic: % Caucasian	78%	71%
Ethnic: % Hispanic	20%	28%
Income: Median family income	$50,439	$66,446
Income: Per capita income	$17,239	$23,702
Income: % population below poverty level	5.4%	7.1%
Population with Bachelor's degrees	12,545	29,764

Table 4.2: Demographic changes 1990 to 2000

The major changes in the population in the past ten years have been an increased median age, reflecting more senior citizens and fewer children under the age of five. The household size and family size have been increasing. The increase in the number of family households at 22% has been slightly less than the increase in the total number of households at 27%, reflecting a higher percentage of householders living alone, particularly those 65 years of age and older.

The ethnic composition of the city has changed slightly with a higher percentage of Hispanic residents than 10 years ago but the change is less dramatic than for the rest of San Bernardino County which has gone from 26% Hispanic population in 1990 to 39% in 2000, or a 50% increase.

The percentage of the population with at least a Bachelor's degree has increased dramatically as noted both in the 2000 census report and in API data for individual schools, which reports the level of educational achievement for the school children's parents.

4.10 RANCHO CUCAMONGA SCHOOLS

In 2000, the total school enrollment of Rancho Cucamonga residents from pre-school to college or graduate school was almost 43,000. The combined enrollment for K – 12 was 30,060. Five public school districts serve the children and youth of Rancho Cucamonga. Four of these operate public schools for elementary and middle school students. These are Alta Loma, Etiwanda, Cucamonga, and Central Elementary School Districts. The Chaffey Joint Union High School District serves the communities of Rancho Cucamonga, Ontario, and Montclair. Table 4.9 and 4.10, at the end of this section, provide detailed information on the schools, enrollment, API scores, and the library facilities and personnel.

The school districts which serve the elementary and middle school populations have all adopted a reading initiative that asks every student to read outside of school time for at least 15 minutes per day, five days a week.

HIGH SCHOOL

The Chaffey Joint Union High School District currently operates six separate campuses. The Rancho Cucamonga Community is primarily served by Rancho Cucamonga High School, Etiwanda High School, and Alta Loma High School. For many years, Chaffey High School was the mainstay of the area, but after World War II, Upland High School and Montclair High School were constructed. In the next several years, Alta Loma High School and Ontario High School appeared. No new building occurred from 1967 until 1987 when Etiwanda High School opened and in 1992, Rancho Cucamonga High School. Rancho Cucamonga High School was selected as a California Distinguished School in 1996 and received a full six-year accreditation in 1997 reflecting the high academic standards and outstanding programs RCHS offers to its students. Etiwanda High School is also designated as a California Distinguished High School. The region is enjoying another boom period, and the district has plans for two more new high schools, one in Ontario and one in Rancho Cucamonga. Los Osos High School and Colony High School are nearly finished construction and scheduled to open in the fall of 2002. Currently three more schools are being constructed, two Middle Schools and one elementary, all in the eastern portion of Rancho Cucamonga.

Chaffey High School is the largest in the District and is the home of the magnificent Gardiner Spring Auditorium, now a regional performing arts center. All classrooms at the school have one or more computers connected to the District network and the Internet for teachers to implement technology into their lessons. Chaffey has six computer labs available in various buildings on campus for instructional use by teachers, along with 29 computers in the library for student use. All of the high schools in the Chaffey Joint Union High School District have one librarian.

School	Enrollment 2000	# Librarians
Alta Loma High School	2,900	1
Rancho Cucamonga High School	2,894	1
Etiwanda High School	3,237	1
Montclair High School	2,866	1
Ontario High School	2,898	1
Chaffey High School	3,465	1

Table 4.3: Chaffey Joint Union High School Enrollments and # Librarians

Just as the growth of the Chaffey Joint Union High School District parallels the growth of the valley, so does its diversity. In its early years, the district's population was almost solely Anglo with very few Hispanics, even though there was a large Hispanic population working the groves. However, as the local environment changed from agricultural to small manufacturing and industrial, the population of the schools began to reflect this change until today when Hispanics represent the largest segment of the district population.

In recent years, the District has experienced an influx of people from all over Latin America, many of whom desire a high school education but cannot speak English. When this phenomenon became more pronounced, the district established Newcomer School. In this way, if a student entering the district cannot speak English, he or she can attend Newcomer's School for one year in order to learn enough English to complete the high school curriculum, graduate and continue their education.

4.11 STATE RANKING

The state ranking for these school districts averages from a high of 8 to a low of 4. The schools, which serve the Rancho Cucamonga students, tend to have the higher rankings. The graduation rate for students enrolled in schools in the Chaffey Joint Union High School District is very high at 95%. The low drop out rate for the specific schools in the district, which primarily serve students who live in Rancho Cucamonga, is illustrated in the table below.

	District Enrollment	District Drop out Rate	Alta Loma Drop out Rate	Rancho H.S. Drop out Rate	Etiwanda H.S. Drop out rate	Statewide Drop out Rate
1998	17,959	3.4%	1.5%	1.3%	3.5%	2.9%
1999	18,615	2.5%	1.7%	1.0%	.3%	2.8%
2000	19,339	3.2%	1.7%	1.3%	.3%	2.8%

Table 4.4: Chaffey Joint Union High School District Enrollment and Drop out rate

Provided in Table 4.10 is a complete list of the districts, the individual schools and enrollments, and 2001 API test scores. Also, when noted to be significant by the California Department of Education, the table includes the ethnic subgroups as a percentage of the school population, and the percentage of the school population rated socio-economically disadvantaged. In general, the districts show a numerically significant number of Hispanic students and many of them show a numerically significant number of socio-economically disadvantaged students.

Alta Loma Elementary	787
Etiwanda Elementary	771
Central Elementary	723
Cucamonga Elementary	631
Chaffey Joint Union	609

Table 4.5: District API Average Scores 2001

Alta Loma Elementary	8.3
Etiwanda Elementary	7.8
Central Elementary	7
Cucamonga Elementary	4
Chaffey Joint Union	4.7

Table 4.6: District State Rank Average

Alta Loma Elementary	22%
Etiwanda Elementary	32%
Central Elementary	36%
Cucamonga Elementary	57%
Chaffey Joint Union	48%

Table 4.7: District % (average) Hispanic

Alta Loma Elementary	15%
Etiwanda Elementary	17%
Central Elementary	32%
Cucamonga Elementary	70%
Chaffey Joint Union	30%

Table 4.8: District % (average) of socio-economically disadvantaged students

4.12 SCHOOL INVOLVEMENT IN NEEDS ASSESSMENT

As part of the Needs Assessment process the school districts and personnel were involved in a variety of meaningful ways.

Five School District Superintendents that represent the community of Rancho Cucamonga attended a focus group. This focus group, which was facilitated by the City Librarian and the Director of Community Services, concentrated on describing the proposed project, soliciting feedback on the usefulness of the project, both in terms of the Victoria Gardens Library and the Children's Theatre and the synergy of the two combined.

The School/Youth Subcommittee, a subcommittee of the Library Foundation, composed of one Assistant Superintendent, two certified library media teachers, one PTA representative, and four teachers, met twice as a special focus group to help devise the Plan of Service.

In addition to the focus groups, community presentations, which were designed to involve the education community by informing them about the project and soliciting their support, were conducted by the School/Youth Subcommittee of the Library Foundation and a PTA representative to the following groups: Etiwanda School Board, Alta Loma School Board, Alta Loma School District Principals Meeting, Central School Board, Central School District Principals, Cucamonga School

Board, Cucamonga District Principals, Chaffey School District, Alta Loma Council PTA, Cucamonga PTA and Rancho Cucamonga Council PTA.

HIGHER EDUCATION

Rancho Cucamonga is also home to Chaffey College, a two-year community college, and a satellite campus of the University of La Verne and the University of Redlands. Also located in San Bernardino County is California State University San Bernardino, which has an enrollment of over 8,000 students and the California Community College system which provides high quality education to the residents of the state at the San Bernardino Community College District campuses of Crafton Hills College and San Bernardino Valley College and in neighboring Riverside County at the three campuses of Riverside Community College.

Table 4.9: Library Facilities of public schools serving Rancho Cucamonga residents

Alta Loma Elementary District		Library	# Volumes	Technology	Librarian
Alta Loma Elementary	E	Yes	12,000	6 computers	No
Banyan Elementary	E	Yes	9,000	6 computers	No
Carnelian Elementary	E	Yes	14, 290	2 computers	No
Deer Canyon Elementary	E	Yes	12,138	5 computers	No
Groves (Victoria) Elementary	E	Yes	13,469	6 computers	No
Hermosa Elementary	E	Yes	10, 000	5 computers	No
Jasper Elementary	E	Yes	11,000	5 computers	No
Stork (Floyd M.) Elementary	E	Yes	10,500	7 computers	No
Alta Loma Jr. High	M	Yes	13,850	8 computers	No
Vineyard Jr. High	M	Yes	7,615	4 computers	No
District Totals/Average			**113,862**	**54**	**0**
Etiwanda Elementary District					1 30% FTE Librarian
Caryn Elementary	E	Yes	6,696	8 computers	No
East Heritage Elementary	E	Yes	10,223	7 computers	No
Lightfoot	E	Yes	7,381	7 computers	No
Long Elementary	E	Yes	5,342	6 computers	No
Solorio	E	Yes	4,049	4 computers	No
Terra Vista	E	Yes	8,202	6 computers	No
West Heritage	E	Yes	6,500	7 computers	No
Windrows Elementary	E	Yes	11,082	7 computers	No
Etiwanda Intermediate	M	Yes	9,054	14 computers	No
Summit Intermediate	M	Yes	4,000	6 computers	No
District Totals/Average			**72,529**	**66**	**.30**
Central Elementary District					1 district Libn
Bear Gulch Elementary	E	Yes	8,377	4 computers	No
Central Elementary	E	Yes	7,600	6 computers	No
Coyote Canyon	E	Yes	4,690	4 computers	No
Dona Merced	E	Yes	11,000	7 computers	No
Valle Vista	E	Yes	10,000	5 computers	No
Cucamonga Middle	M	Yes	20,000	10 computers	No
Musser Middle	M	Yes	3,001	7 computers	No
District Totals/Average			**64,678**	**43**	**1**

Cucamonga Elementary District

Cucamonga Elementary	E	Yes	11,000	3 computers	No
Los Amigos	E	Yes	11,118	4 computers	No
Ontario Center	E	Yes	3,000	3 computers	No
Rancho Cucamonga Middle	M	Yes	6,500	3 computers	No
District Totals/Average			**31,618**	**43**	**1**

Chaffey Joint Union District		**Library**	**# Volumes**	**Technology**	**FTE Librarians**
Alta Loma	H	Yes	19,000	30 computers	1
Chaffey	H	Yes	32,467	29 computers	1
Etiwanda High	H	Yes	23,000	11 computer 10 laptops	1
Montclair High	H	Yes	25,000	19 computers	1
Ontario High	H	Yes	31,634	36 computers	1
Rancho Cucamonga High	H	Yes	27,869	70 computers	1
District Totals/Average			**158,970**	**205 computers**	**6 Librarians**

Table 4.10: School Districts and Schools serving Rancho Cucamonga Students

Alta Loma Elementary District		Tested	Enrolled	API	Rank	Hispanic	White	Black	Disadvantaged
Alta Loma Elementary	E	398	477	766	8	32%	53%		30%
Banyan Elementary	E	448	546	833	9	19%	58%		12%
Carnelian Elementary	E	439	504	768	8	25%	68%		24%
Deer Canyon Elementary	E	494	579	803	8	22%	63%		21%
Groves (Victoria) Elementary	E	566	648	807	9	27%	53%		8%
Hermosa Elementary	E	430	497	801	8	14%	68%		13%
Jasper Elementary	E	415	481	766	8	23%	63%		14%
Stork (Floyd M.) Elementary	E	613	675	811	9	14%	78%		5%
Alta Loma Middle	M	804	888	750	8	20%	69%		12%
Vineyard Jr. High	M	895	1027	767	8	20%	63%		13%
District Totals/Average			**6322**	**787.2**	**8.3**	**22%**	**64%**		**15%**
Etiwanda Elementary District									
Caryn Elementary	E	370	448	796	8	22%	62%		5%
East Heritage Elementary	E	362	503	734	7	38%	27%	22%	20%
Lightfoot	E	380	488	831	9	28%	44%	12%	8%
Long Elementary	E	463	562	782	8	28%	51%	15%	10%
Solorio	E	201	368	746	7	35%	30%	25%	28%
Terra Vista	E	302	442	790	8	41%	39%		28%
West Heritage	E	513	596	715	6	41%	25%	22%	27%
Windrows Elementary	E	446	509	808	9	27%	63%		13%
Etiwanda Intermediate	M	1213	1541	755	8	32%	37%	23%	18%
Summit Intermediate	M	1217	1486	757	8	29%	48%	13%	12%
District Totals/Average			**6943**	**771.4**	**7.8**	**32%**	**43%**		**17%**
Central Elementary District									
Bear Gulch Elementary	E	333	418	684	5	50%	29%	11%	54%
Central Elementary	E	345	415	709	6	33%	48%	10%	40%
Coyote Canyon	E	362	459	753	7	32%	41%	18%	25%
Dona Merced	E	413	473	714	7	36%	49%	10%	25%
Valle Vista	E	348	414	747	7	35%	50%		25%
Cucamonga Middle	M	814	955	708	7	38%	45%	11%	33%
Musser Middle	M	821	994	743	8	28%	47%	15%	19%
District Totals/Average			**4128**	**723**	**7**	**36%**	**44%**		**32%**
Cucamonga Elementary District									
Cucamonga Elementary	E	342	416	646	4	68%	14%	12%	79%
Los Amigos	E	406	464	687	5	62%	21%	12%	62%
Ontario Center	E	382	484	625	4	40%	23%	29%	63%
Rancho Cucamonga Middle	M	670	805	566	3	56%	14%	19%	76%
District Totals/Average			**2169**	**631**	**4**	**57%**	**18%**	**18%**	**70%**

Chaffey Joint Union District		API Tested	2001 Enrolled	2001 API	State Rank	Ethnic Hispanic	Subgroups White	Black	% Disadvantaged
Alta Loma	H	1878	2091	678	7	27%	60%		13%
Chaffey	H	2196	2562	523	2	72%	17%		49%
Etiwanda High	H	2335	2661	711	8	25%	51%	15%	11%
Montclair High	H	1910	2209	494	1	72%	12%		53%
Ontario High	H	1918	2196	573	3	62%	21%	11%	41%
Rancho Cucamonga High	H	1898	2198	678	7	28%	53%	12%	11%
District Totals/Average			**13917**	**609.5**	**4.7**	**48%**	**36%**		**30%**

4.13 GOVERNING AGENCIES

The City of Rancho Cucamonga was incorporated in 1977. The City is a General Law City and operates according to the statutes of the State and Municipal Codes. Additionally, the organizational structure of the local government is of the City Council-City Manager form. This form of local government offers a unique blend consisting of an elected City Council, citizens responsible for policymaking and a team of professional administrators under the supervision of a City Manager. The City Manager is hired by, and responsible to the City Council. From its inception, the City Council-City Manager plan of municipal government has emphasized the unification of powers in a single legislative body - the City Council.

Rancho Cucamonga is served by Representatives from the 40th and 42nd Congressional Districts, Jerry Lewis and Joe Baca, and from the 31st and 32nd State Senate Districts, James Brulte and Nell Soto. Bill Leonard represents the City from the 63rd District in the State Assembly. The San Bernardino County Supervisor from the Second District is Jon Mikels.

The City Librarian is a Department Head reporting directly to the City Manager. All librarians and library staff report to the City Librarian.

Many Rancho Cucamonga City Departments were involved in the needs assessment process. The Director of Community Services, Kevin McArdle, and the Community Redevelopment Director, Linda Daniels, participated in the planning sessions for both the library and the Children's Theater.

The City Manager, Mayor and Council Members have all been involved in the needs assessment process. Individual interviews for each of the Mayor and Council members to assist in creating the Library Master Plan, involvement by all Council Members through their participation on sub-committees which review all stages of the planning process. The Performing Arts Subcommittee, consisting of the Mayor Pro Tem and a Council member. The Library Subcommittee, consisting of the Mayor and a Council Member. Each of the planning documents (Library Master Plan, Performing Arts Studies) have been reviewed and evaluated by the Mayor and Council in thorough study session.

The Library Board of Trustees have also been involved, at an even more "hands on" level. Invited to all of the library in-service meetings, Board members have worked with staff to analyze strengths and weaknesses of the existing library, have been fully involved in planning the services to offer at the proposed Victoria Gardens Library, and have ultimately selected the roles that will guide overall services for the Rancho Cucamonga Public Library system in the future.

4.14 THE LIBRARY

The present city-managed Rancho Cucamonga Public Library on Archibald Avenue opened its doors to the public on September 24, 1994. Prior to this, the city was served by a branch of the San Bernardino County Library system. Major goals of City Library service were to offer residents more open hours and expanded programming, a larger, more current book collection, and the latest in library technology.

The Library initially opened with 50,000 items in the collection and was open 59 hours per week. Today, the collection has grown to over 140,000 items and is now opened 7 days, 65 hours per week.

Some of the milestones in the short history of Rancho Cucamonga Public Library include opening the Friends of the Library Bookstore in 1995, the first award-winning Library Telethon in 1996, the addition of a public-access Technology Center in 1997, and the creation of the "Back to Basics" tutoring program in 1999. Originally funded by an LSTA grant, a recent graduate of this program for troubled readers was invited by his teacher this year to take the GATE exam for gifted youngsters. Finally, the "Kidsmobile", the Library's bookmobile for children and another LSTA grant program, first hit the road in June 2001. A second bookmobile is scheduled to debut in the fall of 2002.

A five member Library Board of Trustees is appointed by the City Council and serves three-year terms. The Trustees are an advisory board which works with library staff, city staff, and the City Council to set long-term goals for the Library.

In addition to the Trustees, the award-winning Friends of the Library a 501(c) (3) organization has been serving the communities of Alta Loma, Cucamonga and Etiwanda since 1972. The Friends are known for their volunteerism, special programs, fund raising and the Friends of the Library Bookstore.

In 1996, the California Association of Library Trustees and Commissions (CALTAC) named the Rancho Cucamonga Friends of the Library as the Friends group of the year. They were recognized at the 1996 California Library Association conference. In 1997, Paul Williams, President of the Rancho Cucamonga Friends was honored at the 1997 California Library Association conference by CALTAC as the Individual of the Year for outstanding volunteer service to a library.

The Rancho Cucamonga Public Library Foundation Board, also a 501(c) (3), is responsible for fundraising for the Library. They produce the Library Telethon as well as other events throughout the year. The Foundation Boards meets on the second Monday of every month at the Library. The award-winning Rancho Cucamonga Public Library Telethon is the library's major fundraising event. In 4 years, the Telethon has raised over $200,000. Monies raised from previous Telethons have funded materials for the "Kidsmobile," built the Public Access Technology Center, and supports the "Back to Basics" and Literacy programs.

The 2002 Needs Assessment was conducted by the City Librarian with the assistance of the library staff, Director of Community Services, Director of Redevelopment, City Manager, and planning consultant. Their involvement is further detailed in Chapter 3.

4.15 COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

Civic and community organizations in Rancho Cucamonga include the YMCA, Rotary Club, Kiwanis Club, Etiwanda Historical Society, Rancho Grande Kiwanis, Soroptomist Club, and as noted above, the Friends of the Library. In addition to these organizations, dozens of local businesses have supported the library over the years and have been major contributors to the library through the annual Telethon as evidenced by the substantial donor wall in the Archibald Library.

The Rancho Cucamonga Senior Center is extremely active with over 100 sponsored events a week. The library has continued to address the needs of Senior Citizens with a web page dedicated to the needs and interests of this growing demographic group. The specific needs of this group include accessibility, both in convenience of location and hours available in addition to specialized collections selected for seniors based on interest and physical abilities.

4.16 ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION OF COMMUNITY CHARACTERISTICS

DEMOGRAPHICS

Rancho Cucamonga is located in San Bernardino County. It is one of the largest cities in the County, and one of the fastest growing cities in both the County and in the State of California. The growth for the past ten years has exceeded the rest of the County, the State, and the United States. The California Department of Finance projects that the City will continue to grow and the planned residential developments indicate that this projection is accurate. Growth has exceeded projections made in the 1990 Master Plan for Library Services.

The City of Rancho Cucamonga is a city of neighborhoods with well-maintained homes, parks and recreational areas. The heritage of the vineyards and ranchos is recognized and respected in the architecture and in the development of the City. Housing is relatively affordable, the schools are rated highly, and the community is family oriented. There are 22 parks, two special use facilities, two community centers, and one sports center. In addition, the City acted as the lead agency, in cooperation with San Bernardino Associated Governments and five other cities, in the development of the Pacific Electric Inland Empire Trail, the conversion of a former rail corridor into a multi-purpose regional trail.

The city is safe with low incidence of violent and property crime. In addition to police officers, there are several volunteer programs including the Explorer Scouts, the Citizen's Patrol, and the Reserve Officers.

Developments are carefully planned as evidenced by recent projects and the involvement of citizens, community services and other organizations in the planning process. The Victoria Gardens project is being planned as a careful blend of residential, commercial, and civic spaces, and to create a downtown main street for the residents of the area.

The City residents are young with nearly 30% of the population under the age of 18. The percentage of the population between the ages of 5 and 19 exceeds the State of California and the rest of the United States. This segment of the population has increased from representing 22% to 26% of the population in the past ten years. This increase represents an increase of 11,000 young people from 22,648 in 1990 to 33, 213 in 2000. It's no surprise that during enrollment in preschool storytime, moms and dads bring their folding chairs and wait up to two hours before the library opens to be sure of a "spot" for their youngster.

The population of Rancho Cucamonga is well educated with a higher than average per capita and per family income. As noted in the 1991 Master Plan, the overall demographic profile of the community points to a community of library users. The percent of the population holding Bachelor's degrees has doubled in the past ten years, indicating a shift in the demographic composition of the city. Residents are well connected with over 85% of Rancho Cucamonga households having computers with Internet access. This has enabled the library to offer many of its services and collections virtually through its outstanding web site.

The ethnic composition of the city has changed in the past ten years, as well, but less dramatically than the rest of the County and State. The percent of the population below the poverty level is less than that of the rest of the State, although three of the five school districts report more than 30% of the students to be socio-economically disadvantaged. The percentage of the population below the poverty level has increased by nearly 50% since 1990.

The trends in the past ten years have shown a population that has gotten slightly older, with less representation in the under 5 age group and more in the over 65 age group; better educated; and more ethnically diverse.

THE SCHOOLS

The five school districts, which serve the students of Rancho Cucamonga, are adding new school facilities to support the growing population. Two new schools will open in the fall of 2002 and three more are currently under construction. The high school drop out rate is low and the graduation rate is high. The test scores at the schools are high for three of the elementary and middle school districts and below average for one elementary district and for the high school district. The test scores for the individual schools in the high school district range widely from a ranking of 8 in Etiwanda, and 7 in Alta Loma and 7 in Rancho Cucamonga, to a low of 1 at Montclair High School. However, many students want and need tutoring and help in basic reading skills. The "Back to Basics" learning program, which assists youngsters with tutoring help when their reading skills fall one grade below their peer averages, has a constant waiting list. Serving 60 youngsters each semester, there is a waiting list of nearly 20 youngsters for every session.

All 38 schools in the five school districts have school libraries. The collections in the elementary and middle schools are of good to excellent size based on the size of the student enrollment. Using the Information Power[1] guidelines for library collections in public schools, the four elementary school districts average nearly 15 volumes per student putting them above the 75th percentile nationally. The high school district averages 11.4 volumes per student, which places it below the average of 19 volumes per student at the 75th percentile. Each of the six high school libraries in the district has full time library media specialists. One of the elementary/middle school districts has none. Two of the other three have one to serve all of the many schools in the district, and one of the districts has .30 FTE to serve all 10 schools.

THE LIBRARY

The Rancho Cucamonga Library is small, but well cared for. The collections are small, but well selected. The staff is excellent. The technology is leading edge, and the programs are excellent. The Research Network survey in 2000 indicated that 85% of Rancho Cucamonga households use the library and 66% use it more than once every two months. As evidenced by use data and the comparative analysis study, use of the collection is high. The turnover rate is double that of comparable libraries, which means that books and materials are frequently out on loan. The most frequently requested improvement to services from all groups is more books.

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[1] Information Power: Guidelines for School Media Program. American Association of School Librarians and AECT. Chicago: ALA, c1988.

The residents of Rancho Cucamonga are library users and library supporters. The Friends of the Library is a strong organization, runs a highly profitable bookstore, and is prepared to take on a second bookstore to raise funds in support of library services. Although the average age is 76, these volunteers commit an average of 10 hours each week, sorting, pricing and selling donated books and magazines. Winner of the CALTAC award for volunteer in 1996, three volunteers donate more than 1,000 hours each year to support their library. The "Kids Connect @ the Library" Telethon, winner of the ALA John Cotton Dana Award in library public relations in 1998, is a bi-annual celebration of the Rancho Cucamonga Public Library. A tribute to reading, kids and libraries, it is supported by local business, community and civic organizations, city staff, media personalities, state and local elected officials, families, and all of the schools. Over 30,000 viewers watch this televised event.

COMMUNITY INPUT

Members of the community are extremely supportive of the library and they rank current services high. There is strong support for the expansion of traditional library services including more books, more children's programs, and more adult programs. The primary deterrents to library use are parking and hours of operation. For young people, one of the primary deterrents is location and transportation. In addition to the support for expansion of the traditional library services, there is strong support for computer training, free or low cost Internet access, a homework center, and more of everything, in general. The surveys and focus groups note the need for more books, more space, more study areas, more quiet, more parking, and more hours. For a new branch library, they rate children's books, teen space and collections, computer classes and a homework center the highest priority.

PLANNING AHEAD

As the City has grown, the library has grown too. Following the 1991 Master Plan, the City withdrew from the San Bernardino County Library system and shortly after opened the Archibald Avenue Library. The collections quickly grew and the facility is now filled well beyond capacity. A stable source of funding was established and has been supplemented generously by the Friends of the Library and the Library Foundation's Telethon.

In the following years, the library compacted collections to add space for more volumes; it has added a bookmobile for outreach service; and more importantly, it has added virtual collections and training in their use to expand their resources beyond the walls of the 22,500 square foot Archibald Avenue Library. The library has capitalized on the fact that 85% of the population has access to the Internet at home. As one teen stated in a focus group: "I want access to the library for more hours. I want access to the library from my home computer. But I also want access to a computer when I go to the library. I guess I just want access to my library 24 hours a day."[2]

There has been steady progress since the establishment of the library, guided by two master plans, numerous focus groups and surveys of the community, and a staff and administration that keeps in touch with the community. As noted in 1991, increased traffic would deter library use and only by offering more convenient locations could the library respond to this issue. The 1991 Master Plan indicated the desirability and efficiency of creating a library organization or system to deliver service. It also suggested earlier standards that recommended a collection of 2 volumes per capita (i.e., 250,000

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[2] Teen Focus Group. Conducted May 20, 2002

volumes), 3 to 4 seats per 1,000 residents (375 seats), meeting rooms, study space and sufficient parking.

The Master Plan 2000 recommended that the library look toward developing a library on the east side of the City and planning on expanding that site when the City was built out. Since 1997, the City has explored four different sites and approaches to providing a service location on the east side. Currently, in the midst of the biggest real estate boom the city has seen for 15 years, the opportunity stands side by side with the challenge.

Even with the enormous progress of the past ten years, the library in 2002 is attempting to serve a city with over 33,000 young people between the ages of 5 and 18; with an additional 9,000 preschoolers; with 7,600 senior citizens and a school districts that can't build new schools fast enough to keep up with the population growth. It is attempting to serve the over 33,479 public school children who have access to approximately 440,000 volumes in their school libraries, and only 8.3 librarians. These school children have access to 411 computer workstations in their library media centers (or .01 per student).

All indications are that the number of young people will continue to increase. The schools have made that forecast and are investing in five new school facilities within a two-year period—all of them on the east side. With an educated and sophisticated population, the demand for high quality library service will continue to escalate. With 85% of the population having access to the Internet at home, the demand for database access, web access, and training in these resources and other electronic tools will continue. Librarians and technical staff will be required to administer these resources, to manage the technology, and to provide the training.

The specific needs of the community are, as suggested by the community surveys, "more." The Rancho Cucamonga Library needs more collections to serve the needs of its population. It needs more space for study, for quiet reading, and for after school homework and tutoring. It needs more space for staff to manage and plan programs – to supplement the 8.3 school librarians that are currently serving the needs of 33,500 students.

As one parent, homeschooling her four youngsters, summed it up: "It's frustrating. Books, tables, chairs, computers… You always have what I need…but it's never available when I need it!"[3]

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[3] Homeschooler's Focus Group. Conducted May 29, 2002